



have a functional digestive system. They live until spring when they spawn and die.

Habitats

interior rivers and streams

Iowa Status

threatened; native

The American brook lamprey is very secretive in its habits, so its range and abundance are largely undetermined.

Iowa Range

northeast Iowa

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.

American brook lamprey

Lampetra appendix

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Agnatha
Order:	Petromyzoniformes
Family:	Petromyzontidae

Features

The adult American brook lamprey is five to eight inches long. Its body is long and cylindrical. There are gill pouches behind the head and the circular mouth is located on the underside of the head. The long dorsal fin is divided into two parts and extends around the tail of the fish. There are no fins on the sides. The body is olive green to brown above fading to lighter below. The very similar northern brook lamprey was recently discovered in northeast Iowa streams as well. The northern brook lamprey is a mottled brown color and the dorsal fin has only a shallow notch. It is relatively shorter than the American brook lamprey.

Natural History

The American brook lamprey is found in smaller streams in northeast Iowa. It spawns in spring in small depressions in the sand, usually in swift current. Immature fish (larvae) eat small plants, animals, and bits of organic matter. They live in burrows for several years before maturing in the fall. Mature fish do not